

Telephone Advisory Committee for Orissa

1219. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to re-constitute the Telephone Advisory Committee for Orissa;

(b) if so, the time by which such committee is likely to be re-constituted; and

(c) when the last Telecom/Telephone Advisory Committee for Orissa was constituted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The Telecom Advisory Committee for Orissa was constituted on 29-3-1991 and is under review.

[Translation]

New Cross Bar Telephone Exchange at Dombivli in Maharashtra

1220. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Cross Bar Telephone Exchange of ten thousand lines capacity is being set up at Dombivli in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A seven thousand lines new Crossbar telephone exchange is being set up at Dombivli in Maharashtra.

(b) This exchange is planned to be commissioned in 1991-92.

[English]

Visit of Haj Delegation to Saudi Arabia

1221. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and the criteria of selection of the official delegation to Saudi Arabia on the occasion of Haj, 1991;

(b) the estimated or actual expenditure incurred on the visit of the delegation, in rupees and in foreign exchange separately;

(c) the purpose, activities and achievements of the delegation;

(d) the details of the recommendations made by the delegation; and

(e) the details of the recommendations made by the Haj delegations of 1989 and 1990 and the present status of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The composition of Haj Goodwill Delegation, 1991 is given in Statement-I. There are no specific criteria laid down for selection of members. However, Government selects eminent Muslims as members taking into account the principle of regional representation and the interest taken by the individual in the welfare of our Haj pilgrims.

(b) The details of expenditure are given in Statement-II.

(c) The purpose is to promote goodwill between the two countries, to convey our gratitude to the Saudi authorities for the arrangements for Haj and to look into the arrangements for our pilgrims with a view to further improvement. The delegation called on a number of Saudi dignitaries and the leader carried a letter from Prime Minister to King Fahd.

(d) Details of recommendations made by the delegation, 1991 are given in Statement-III.

(e) Necessary details are given in Statement-IV and V.

STATEMENT I*Haj Goodwill Delegation for 1991*

1. Shri Farooq Abdullah, Former Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir.	Leader
2. Shri M. A. Lari, Minister of Tourism, Government of U.P.	Member
3. Shri Salim Zakaria, Chairman, Central Haj Committee, Bombay.	"
4. Prof. Isthiaque Abidi, Ex-M.P. & Ex-Chairman, Modern Food Industries.	"
5. Shri Mohammed Ajmal, Social Worker, Industrialist, 34, Chatnarm Line, Allahabad.	"
6. Shri Abdul Khayoom Ansari, Social Worker from Bihar.	"
7. Shri Sarwar Hussain, Ex-Minister of State for Food & Civil Supplies Government of India.	"
8. Dr. M. Wali, Physician to the President.	"
9. Shri Mohammed Afzal, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), 95, South Avenue, New Delhi-110001.	"
10. Shri Salamutullah, Vice Chairman, Haj Committee, Bombay.	"
11. Shri K. M. Sultan, Director, Ministry of Finance.	Member Secretary

STATEMENT II*Details of actual expenditure incurred on Haj Goodwill Delegation, 1991.*

			Rs.
Air Passage			1,86,000.00
Accommodation	SRLs	4,56,923.00	20,65,658.00
Transportation charges in Saudi Arabia	SRLs	1,14,675.00	5,18,422.00
Daily Allowance	SRLs	65,000.00	2,93,851.00
Total	SRLs	6,36,598.00	30,63,931.00

STATEMENT IIIS. No. *Recommendations**Recommendations made by Haj
Goodwill Delegation, 1991*S. No. *Recommendations*

1. As many more units as possible should be selected from category I of accommodation.
2. Since most pilgrims are old, care should be taken to see that, as far as possible, the building selected have elevators.
3. The ratio of pilgrims to toilet should be reduced from 15 at present to no more than 10 pilgrims per toilet. Buildings should be selected taking this into account. Even if this means slightly higher rent, the delegation feels that the pilgrims will prefer this for the sake of better sanitary conditions.
4. Agreements in respect of hiring of buildings should be undertaken at the earliest possible preferably in November to avoid competition from other countries.
5. Buildings, in respect of which repeated complaints have been received, should not be hired in future.
6. Indian Pilgrims should be provided with identification bracelets containing details similar to those mentioned in the stickers. The identity card provided to pilgrims should be laminated to ensure durability.
7. Our pilgrims are quite poorly informed about the religious rituals. Each Moallim has about 5000 pilgrims with him and, therefore, it is impossible

for him to help the pilgrims in this respect. Most pilgrims are also not aware of the weather conditions nor of the living conditions at Makkah, Madina, Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah nor about the formalities regarding travel documents, inoculation requirements etc. It is, therefore, imperative that Orientation programmes should be held for the pilgrims a few days before they leave the country. These programmes can be conducted by the Haj Committees at the point of departure—viz, Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. Video films should be screened for them and experienced persons should explain to the pilgrims the religious rituals, about living conditions as well as about precautions to be taken to prevent heat stroke and about steps to be taken if he falls ill or is lost. Air India should also be requested to screen such films during Haj flights.

8. In order to make Indian pilgrims more informed about the formalities regarding the application for Haj, Doordarshan and All India Radio should carry half an hour programme for a few days during the period when the applications are invited for Haj. In these programmes the various parameters and requirements for Haj should be explained so that a prospective pilgrim is aware about the formalities before he submits his application to the Haj Committee.
9. The Delegation noted that the Khudamul Hujjaj have not performed the duty as efficiently as they should. It is, therefore, suggested that Khadim-ul-Hujjaj should be selected only from

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amongst persons who have been members of the Building Selection Team. This will ensure that the Khaddim-ul-Hujjaj are well aware of the location of the building and the problems which a pilgrim is likely to face. The Khaddim-ul-Hujjaj should work directly under the Consulate Officer in Makkah which should supervise their work. The Khaddim-ul-Hujjaj should note down specific complaints regarding pilgrims, misbehaviour of the Moallims or bus drivers etc. They should also go round inform the medical mission about any pilgrim who is ill. The name of the person selected as Khaddim-ul-Hujjaj should be informed to the Central Haj Committee well in time.

10. The delegation felt that the number of persons employed as building supervisors is not sufficient for inspecting buildings and looking into the redressal of complaints. The delegation recommends that the number of building supervisors should be increased from 14 to 20.

11. After the house allotment and flight allotment is made by the Consulate, fcppies containing all the information about the pilgrims including the phone numbers of the buildings where the Hajis are to be accommodated should be sent to the State Government and State Haj Committee. This will ensure that the relatives of the pilgrims are informed about the whereabouts of their near ones who have come to perform the Haj.

12. Considering the number of pilgrims coming from India and

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the fact that most of them are in a fairly advanced age, the number of doctors in the medical mission should be increased from 22 to 30. In order to ensure efficient functioning of the medical team, messing facilities should be arranged for them on payment. The roster duty of the doctor should ensure that each doctor should get two days off.

13. The staff deputed from India including the medical team should be treated as on tour.

14. The Government should undertake to computerise certain functions of the Central Haj Committee and selected State Haj Committees so that they can have detailed information about the pilgrims.

15. The delegation noted that it takes over 10 days to complete the sea journey. Because of this and the fact that only one ship is utilised for sailing to and fro, pilgrims coming by sea spend about 30 days more in the Kingdom than pilgrims travelling by air. If the travelling time is also included a sea pilgrim spends over a month more than an air pilgrim. As a result, Indian pilgrims are the first to reach and the last to leave the Kingdom after Haj. The delegation recommends that the Government of India should explore the possibility of chartering two or three ships during the Haj season so that the pilgrims can return to India much earlier. These ships can better be diverted from the Andamans sector or private liners can be engaged for this purpose.

STATEMENT IV

Statement showing recommendations made by the Haj Goodwill Delegation, 1989 and Action taken thereon

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Recommendation made by the Delegation</i>	<i>Action taken by the Government</i>
1	2	3
1.	Renting of accommodation for our pilgrims for Haj 1990 should be done in January/February, 1990.	Renting delegation was sent to Saudi Arabia in February, 1990 to select buildings.
2.	Embassy should allot accommodation first after which flight/ sailings should be allotted to pilgrims Maktabwise/ building wise to ensure that pilgrims from a particular area arriving by the same flight are accommodated in the same or nearby Buildings.	This is being done.
3.	Space entitlement of 2 Sq. metre per pilgrim is inadequate. Govt. should examine whether after renting building the number of pilgrims accommodated in a building could be less than the capacity of the building prescribed under the Saudi Regulation.	The space entitlement of 2 Square metre which was the case in 1989 has been revised to 2.5 Square metre per pilgrim from Haj 1991 onwards.
4.	Attempt should be made to select better accommodation closer to the Haram as Indian Pilgrim attaches greatest importance to proximity to Haram Sharief.	There are three categories of accommodation depending upon distance from Haram Sharief. The first category is the closest and the most expensive. All those who wanted the first category have been given.
5.	Embassy should closely monitor the work of all Moallims handling Indian pilgrims and to urge the Saudi Haj Ministry to expel them from the Moassassa in case of serious complaint.	Our Mission in Jeddah does the needful.
6.	To handle the cases of cancellations and substitutions of waitlisted pilgrims smoothly, Haj Committee Bombay should prescribe and enforce certain deadlines for those seeking exemption from the accommodation scheme.	Haj Committee, Bombay handled cases of cancellation and substitutions by and large satisfactorily by adopting the method suggested.
7.	Renting Delegation should include 1-2 members of Central Haj Committee and 1-2 members of State Haj Committee besides Executive Officer or State Officer.	For reasons of economy we have to restrict the size of such delegation. Renting delegation team sent in Haj 1990 included 2 members of Central Haj Committee and a representative each of 7 Major State Haj Committees. In

1

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3

1991, Building selection team consisting of a representative each of 4 major State Haj Committees had visited Saudi Arabia. The strength of the delegation was adequate.

8. Delegation recommended strengthening of Haj Section of the Consulate in Jeddah by providing following additional posts:—

(i) Posting of two vice consuls, one of these to lookafter Haj work and the other, the accommodation scheme.

Govt. has agreed in principle to provide an additional post of Vice Consul. However, it has not been possible to locate a post in Jeddah as there is shortage.

(ii) Posting of an additional India based or local Assistant to handle the computers utilised for the Reserved accommodation scheme.

(iii) Suitable increase the strength of seasonal staff.

Strength of seasonal staff was increased from 247 in 1989 to 260 manmonths in 1990.

9. Payment of compulsory dues (amount payable by each pilgrim to Saudi Authorities for providing transportation etc.) to Saudi Authorities in a consolidated form should continue.

It continues.

10. Saudi Govt. has proposed to do away with the practice of deputation of foreign Medical Mission in Saudi Arabia from Haj 1990. Delegation recommended this matter be pursued by Govt. of India with Saudi Govt. to ensure that our dispensaries continue to function normally at Makkah, Medina, Mina and Arafat.

Medical Mission was sent as usual during Haj 1990.

11. Foreign exchange entitlement of the pilgrims may be raised to Saudi Riyals 5000 from Haj 1990 keeping in view the cost of living in the Kingdom.

Foreign exchange entitlement at present is Saudi Riyals 4600 per pilgrim. Recommendation for increase was not agreed to due to foreign exchange constraints.

12. Haj Charter air fare for Haj 1990 should be kept at the same level as in 1989.

With the increase in airfare, it is not feasible to freeze the Haj fare at the 1989 level when it was Rs. 7700/- ex-Bombay. The commercial air fare for 1990 was Rs. 10146/- while the Government kept Haj airfare at Rs. 8085/- ex-Bombay.

1	2	3
13. Umbrellas with characteristic tricolour should be supplied to Indian pilgrims.	Umbrellas are now provided to our pilgrims.	
14. Ship MV Akbar should be replaced by a new ship.	M.V. Akbar is doing the last Haj sailing this year.	
15. Haj pilgrims should be guided through film on how to conduct themselves in the Kingdom and about the religious rituals required to be performed during Haj. Govt. could also itself produce such film through films division/Door-darshan.	Necessary guidance is being given to pilgrims by means of books and also personally by Haj guides.	
16. Since most of the buildings hired for our pilgrims have poor kitchen facilities, question of providing catering centrally should be examined.	Has been examined and not found feasible.	
17. Haj Goowill Delegation should visit Saudi Arabia on visit visa.	Delegation visits on visit visa.	
18. Delegation should come 7-10 days in advance of the arrival of the last Haj Charter flight i.e. 12-15 days in advance of Haj day so as to complete the Ziarat to Madina before Haj.	Often, the composition of the delegation is decided too late for it to reach as early as proposed.	

STATEMENT V

Annexure E referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1221 due for Answer on 1-8-1991

Statement showing recommendations made by Haj Goodwill Delegation, 1990 and action taken thereon

S. No.	Recommendation made by the Delegation	Action taken by the Government
1	2	3
1.	The delegation developed a model Action Plan indicating deadlines by which various actions by the Haj Committee and the Embassy have to be completed. This model action plan should be implemented efficiently by the Haj Committee and the Embassy.	The action plan has been implemented smoothly notwithstanding the uncertainty caused by the Gulf crisis.

1	2	3
2.	Greater publicity should be given to the facility available to pilgrims to inform the Haj Committee/Embassy the details of their friends/relatives who they would like to be accommodated in the same building as themselves.	Done.
3.	There should not be a limit on the number of pilgrims who can perform Haj in any given year.	This could not be implemented as the number of pilgrims is fixed keeping in view the availability of foreign exchange.
4.	Haj sailings should be terminated in view of the inconvenience suffered by the pilgrims on sea journey as also the additional expenditure borne by them on account of a longer stay in the Kingdom. In order to moderate the impact of increase in Haj charter fares, the subsidy provided by the Government to sea pilgrims should be made available to air pilgrims.	There has been demand from various quarters for the continuance of Haj sailings. Therefore this recommendation could not be implemented.
5.	Uncertainty regarding the final number of pilgrims to be included in the Reserved accommodation scheme cause final losses to the Haj Committee. Deadlines should be prescribed and enforced by which Rubat allotments and pilgrims included in the without foreign exchange category are finalised well in time, in order to reduce uncertainty. With regard to the pilgrims included in the Central Govt. Quota the pilgrims should be placed in one category.	Haj Committee, Bombay has prescribed and enforced the deadlines in question to a large extent. With regard to pilgrims included in the Central Govt. quota it is not possible to place them in one category for the reason that there are three categories of accommodation at three different rates and a pilgrim has the right to choose.
6.	Buildings where certain major shortcomings have been noted should be identified and not rented next year.	This recommendation was kept in mind while making arrangements for Haj 1991.
7.	Building supervision work for the redressal of the pilgrims grievances should be made more effective by appointing more supervisors.	Our Mission in Jeddah deployed adequate staff to do building supervision work effectively.
8.	Khuddamul Hujjaj should be carefully selected for their dedication and sincerity; the Embassy should utilise their services effectively for building supervision work and redressal of grievances of pilgrims.	Selection of Khuddamul Hujjaj is made by the respective State Haj Committees. Central Govt. impresses upon the State Haj Committees to select them keeping in view certain guidelines prescribed by the Central Govt. and, also taking into account the individual's dedication and sincerity.

1	2	3
9.	The Embassy should utilise the newly appointed Rubat Officer in the Consulate to vigorously pursue retrieval/revival of Rubats.	This is being done.
10.	The flight and accommodation arrangements of sponsored pilgrims should be more closely supervised by the Govt. These pilgrims should be given the option to include them in the reserved accommodation on a voluntary basis.	This is not feasible. "Sponsored pilgrims" means those who are going on their own. They should be left to make their own arrangements and giving them the option will complicate matters.
11.	Govt. should provide a mobile medical van to the Consulate so that medical services could be provided to pilgrims at their buildings in Makkah and in the Indian camps at Mina/Arafat.	No mobile medical van has been provided. But our Mission in Jeddah maintains three branch dispensaries at Makkah besides a permanent dispensary and also puts up medical camps at Mina/Arafat and these arrangements are adequate.
12.	It should be ensured that medicines intended by the Consulate are sent strictly as per requirements of the Medical Mission.	Needful is being done.
13.	The Indian Dispensary in Madina should function throughout the year in order to take care of thousands of Indian pilgrims who visit Madina for Ziarat.	Adequate arrangements for medical care exist. There is no need for a permanent dispensary at Madina.
14.	Staff requirements of the Consulate:	
(i)	Additional staff should be provided for building supervision work.	Seasonal staff was approved for Haj 1991 at the level of Haj 1990. Request for additional staff was not agreed to keeping in view the financial situation.
(ii)	A Vice Consul (Haj) should be deployed at the Consulate as soon as possible.	Govt. has approved the proposal in principle but it is yet to be implemented for want of a post to spare.
(iii)	In view of difficulties faced in recruiting qualified computer operators locally for seasonal work, four India based computer operators should be deputed to the Consulate during the Haj Season.	Computer system of the Consulate is working properly and there is no need to send personnel from India.
(iv)	A Doctor should be posted at the Indian dispensary at Madina.	Two doctors are in position during the season.

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
15. It should be ensured that our pilgrims travel in air-conditioned buses between Jeddah and the Holy cities by charging an additional amount in the compulsory dues.
16. A formal invitation to visit India should be extended by the External Affairs Minister to the Saudi Haj Minister, Dr. Abdul Wahab Aboul Wasie.
- AC system of the buses seldom works during the peak of the Haj season because of the heavy congestion. Hence it is not considered worth while to arrange these buses by paying additional SRLs 90/- per pilgrim.
- The delegation has proposed that the External Affairs Minister should extend an invitation to the Saudi Haj Minister. Doctor Abdul Wasie at the time of inauguration of Haj House at Bombay. Date of the inauguration is yet to be fixed.

[Translation]

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in Kanpur and Fatehpur Districts of Uttar Pradesh

1222. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in the rural area of Kanpur and Fatehpur districts of U.P. proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges; and

(b) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Four telephone exchanges in Kanpur district and two in Fatehpur district are planned to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1991-92.

[English]

Illegal stay of Bangladeshis

1223. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bangladeshi National living in various parts of the country unauthorisedly, State-wise;

(b) whether some of them have been provided with ration cards and have also been registered in voters list;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the issue has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the infiltration and repatriation of those Bangladeshi Nationals who are living in India unauthorisedly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Since most of the Bangladeshi Nationals enter surreptitiously and go underground, it is not possible to determine how many such persons are living in India.

(b) No definite information is available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government on various occasions.